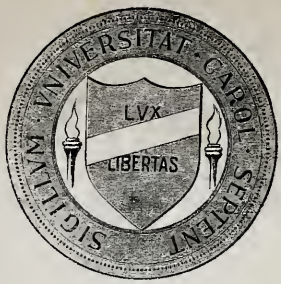
Cp970.71
U58q1

Message transmitting communication

U. S. - Governor



Library of
The University of North Carolina

COLLECTION OF
NORTH CAROLINIANA

ENDOWED BY
JOHN SPRUNT HILL
of the Class of 1889

Cp 970.71 U58g 1

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/messagefromhisexnort

Cp970.71 - U58g1 Heal
can

[Executive Doc. 15.]

MESSAGE

FROM

HIS EXCELLENCY, GOV. DAVID S. REID,

Transmitting Communications from

THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AND FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.

RALEIGH:

Thos. J. Lemay, Printer to the State.

1851.

House Coms. Jan. 3rd, 1851.

[Read and ordered to be sent to the Senate.]

Senate, Jan. 4th, 1851.

[Ordered to be printed.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
January 2nd, 1851.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina:

I have the honor herewith to transmit a communication received from his Excellency the Governor of South Carolina, enclosing an act passed by the Legislature of that State to provide for calling a Southern Convention, &c. And also, a communication from the President of the Nashville Convention, in relation to the Slavery question, and the rights of the States.

DAVID S. REID.

[The Communications referred to are marked A and B and follow in the order in which they are mentioned in the foregoing letter from the Governor.]

[A.]

COMMUNICATION

From the Governor of South Carolina.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Columbia, So. Ca. 21 Decr. 1850.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, DAVID S. REID,
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA:

DEAR SIR,—By direction of the Legislature of the State of South Carolina, I send you the Act passed at its late sitting, which is herewith enclosed.

I need scarcely remind your Excellency that the common dangers with which our Institutions are threatened, call loudly upon the South to be UNITED, that they may be averted. The course pursued towards us by our Northern brethren, if not checked, must involve not only our Institutions, but ourselves, in ruin. The history of the legislation of Congress for the last few years, is such as to prove that aggressions upon the South will not cease, but move onward. The Constitution is, in my humble judgment, entirely disregarded, and the only hope we can possibly have that our liberties or our Institutions can be permanent, is to be derived from OURSELVES. I have little doubt but that your Excellency will agree with me, that the interests of the States over which we have the honor to preside are the same, and this induces me earnestly to request your co-operation in carrying out the objects indicated in the Act.

I have the honor to be,
with distinguished consideration,
your Excellency's obedient servant,
J. H. MEANS.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

At a General Assembly begun and holden at Columbia on the fourth Monday in November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty, and from thence continued by divers adjournments to the twentieth day of December, in the same year.

AN ACT

To provide for the appointment of Deputies to a Southern Congress, and to call a Convention of the people of this State.

WHEREAS, the Convention of the slave-holding States lately assembled at Nashville, have recommended to the said States to meet in Congress or Convention, to be held at such time and place as the States desiring to be represented may designate: to be composed of double the number of their Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States, entrusted with full power and authority to deliberate, with the view and intention of arresting further aggressions, and, if possible, of restoring the Constitutional rights of the South, and if not, to recommend due provision for their future safety and independence.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same,* That eighteen deputies shall be appointed in the manner hereinafter provided, who are hereby authorized, as deputies from the State, to meet such deputies as may be appointed and authorized by any other slave-holding State in Congress or Convention as above recommended, and to join with them in discussing and devising such measures, as in their opinion may be adequate to obtain the objects proposed by the said Convention at Nashville, and in reporting such measures to the said several slav-

holding States, as when agreed to and fully confirmed by them, or any of them will effectually provide for the same.

Sec. II. Four of the said deputies shall be elected by joint ballot of the General Assembly at its present session, and the qualified voters in each Congressional District in this State shall elect two, at such time as is hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. III. The Governor of this State shall issue writs of election to the Managers of Election, requiring them to hold elections in their respective Congressional Districts on the second Monday in October next, and the day following, for two deputies to the said Congress, in each Congressional district; and the said Managers shall thereupon advertize and hold such elections, and make due return thereof to the Governor.

Sec. IV. That the Governor shall duly commission all the said deputies, so to be elected by the General Assembly and by the people; and shall, in concert with the Governors or other proper authorities of other States joining in such Congress, appoint the time and place of meeting, and give due notice thereof; and any of the deputies on the part of this State, who may attend at such time and place, shall have full power to represent the State, as hereinbefore provided.

Sec. V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That a Convention of the people of the State of South Carolina is hereby ordained to be assembled in the Town of Columbia, as hereinafter provided, for the purpose, in the first place, of taking into consideration the proceedings and recommendations of a Congress of the slaveholding States, if the same shall meet and be held; and for the further purpose of taking into consideration the general welfare of this State in view of her relations to the laws and Government of the United States, and thereupon, to take care that the Commonwealth of South Carolina shall suffer no detriment.

Sec. VI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That on the second Monday in February next, and on the day following, the managers of elections for the several

Districts in this State shall, after giving public notice, as in cases of elections for Members of the Legislature, open the polls and hold elections in their respective Districts for Delegates to the said Convention, in all respects in the same manner and form and at the same places, as elections are now conducted for Members of the Legislature. And all persons who are qualified and entitled, by the Constitution and laws of this State, to vote for Members of the Legislature, shall be qualified and entitled to vote for said Delegates to said Convention; and in case of any vacancy occurring by death, resignation, removal from the State, or refusal to serve, of any person elected a Delegate to the said Convention, the presiding officer of the said Convention shall issue his writ authorizing and requiring the managers of elections, in the election district in which such vacancy may have occurred, after giving due notice thereof, to open a poll and hold an election to fill such vacancy, as in cases for the election of Members of the Legislature.

SEC. VII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That each election district throughout the State shall be entitled to elect and send to the said Convention, a number of Delegates equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives which such District is now entitled to send to the Legislature; and the Delegates to the said Convention shall be entitled to the same freedom of arrest in going to, returning from, and whilst in attendance on said Convention, as is extended to the Members of the Legislature.

SEC. VIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all free white male citizens of this State, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, shall be eligible to a seat in said Convention.

SEC. IX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the Governor be and is hereby requested, forthwith, after the passage of this Act, to communicate an authentic copy of the same to the Executive of each of the slaveholding States of the Union, and to urge upon the said authorities, in such manner as he may deem best, the desire

of the State of South Carolina that the said slaveholding States do send duly commissioned deputies, to meet the deputies herein provided to be elected, at the city of Montgomery, in the State of Alabama, on the 2nd day of January, Anno Domino, 1852.

SEC. X. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of his Excellency, the Governor of the State, by his Proclamation, to call together said Convention, and appoint the time for the meeting thereof, whenever or at any period, before the next session of this General Assembly, the conjuncture of a Southern Congress, contemplated in the purpose of this Act, shall have happened: *Provided*, That in case the Governor shall not assemble the Convention anterior to the next session of this Legislature, this general Assembly shall, by a majority of votes, fix the time for the meeting of said Convention.

That the said Convention may be continued by adjournment from time to time, so long as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid: Provided, however, that unless sooner dissolved by their own authority, the said convention shall cease and determine twelve months from the day on which the said Convention shall first assemble.

In the Senate House, the twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty, and in the seventy fifth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

R. F. W. ALLSTON, President of Senate.

JAMES SIMONS, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A true copy.

B. V. WELTS, *Sec'y.*

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

[B.]

COMMUNICATION

From the President of the Nashville Convention.

MARIETTA, GEO.,
2nd Dec., 1850.

SIR:—I have the honor to forward to you a copy of the preamble and resolutions, adopted by the Southern Convention, at its late session in Nashville. You will perceive that it was the expectation of the Convention that this document would be laid before your Legislature, at as early a day as it may suit your Excellency's convenience, with the hope that their proceedings may produce harmony of action, among the States interested in the subject to which they relate.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES McDONALD.

To GOVERNOR REID.

Preamble and Resolutions

OF

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION.

SOUTHERN CONVENTION, }
November 18*th*, 1850. }

The following Preamble and Resolutions were reported by the Committee on Resolutions, and adopted by the Convention:

WE, the delegates assembled from a portion of the States of this Confederacy, make this exposition of the causes which have brought us together, and of the rights which the States we represent are entitled to under the compact of union.

We have amongst us two races, marked by such distinctions of color, and pysical and moral qualities, as forever forbid their living together on terms of social and political equality.

The black race have been slaves from the earliest settlement of our country, and our relations of master and slave have grown up from that time. A change in those relations must end in convulsion, and the entire ruin of one or both races.

When the constitution was adopted, this relation of master and slave, as it exists, was expressly recognized and guarded in that instrument. It was a great and vital interest, involving our very existence as a separate people, then as well as now.

The States of this Confederacy acceded to that compact each one for itself, and ratified it as States.

If the non-slaveholding States, who are parties to that compact, disregard its provisions, and endanger our peace and existence by united and deliberate action, we have a right, as States, there being no common arbiter, to secede.

The object of those who are urging on the Federal Government in its aggressive policy upon our domestic institutions, is, beyond all doubt, finally to overthrow them, and abolish the existing relation between master and slave. We feel authorized to assert this from their own declarations, and from the history of events in this country for the last few years.

To abolish slavery or the slave trade in the District of Columbia—to regulate the sale and transfer of slaves between the States—to exclude slaveholders with their property from the territories—to admit California under the circumstances of the case, we hold to be all parts of the same system of measures, and subordinate to the same end they have in view, which is openly avowed to be, the total overthrow of the institution.

We make no aggressive move. We stand upon the defensive. We invoke the spirit of the Constitution, and claim its guaranties. Our rights—our independence—the peace and existence of our families—depend upon the issue.

The Federal Government has within a few years acquired, by treaty and by triumphant war, vast territories. This has been done by the councils and the arms of all, and the benefits and rights belong alike and equally to all the States. The Federal Government is but the common agent of the States united, and represents their conjoined sovereignty over subject matter granted and defined in the compact.

The authority it exercises over all acquired territory, must, in good faith, be exercised for the equal benefit of all the parties. To prohibit our citizens from settling there with the most valuable part of our property, is not only degrading to us as equals, but violates our highest constitutional rights.

Restrictions and prohibitions against the slaveholding States it would appear, are to be the fixed and settled policy

of the Government—and those States that are hereafter to admitted into the Federal Union from their extensive territories will but confirm and increase the power of the majority; and he knows little of history who cannot read our destiny in the future if we fail to do our duty now, as free people.

We have been harrassed and insulted by those who ought to have been our brethren in their constant agitation of a subject vital to us and the peace of our families. We have been outraged by their gross misrepresentations of our moral and social habits, and by the manner in which they have denounced us before the world. We have had our property enticed off and the means of recovery denied us by our co-States. We have been denied our rights in the Territories of the Union, which we were entitled to as political equals under the constitution. Our peace has been endangered by incendiary appeals. The Union instead of being considered a fraternal bond, has been used as the means of striking at our vital interests.

The admision of California, under the circumstances of the case confirms an unauthorized and revolutionary seizure of public domain, and the exclusion of near half the States of the Confederacy from equal rights therein—destroys the line of 36 30 which was originally acquiesced in as a matter of compromise and peace, and appropriates to the Northern States 120,000 square miles below that line, and is so gross and palpable a violation of the principles of justice and equality as to shake our confidence in any security to be given by that majority who are now clothed with power to govern the future destiny of this confederacy.

The recent purchase of territory by Congress from Texas, as low down as 32 degrees on the Rio Grande, also indicates that the boundaries of the slaveholding States are fixed, and our doom proscriped, so far as it depends upon the will of a dominant majority, and nothing now can save us from a degraded destiny but the spirit of freemen who know their rights and are resolved to maintain them, be the consequence, what they may.

We have no powers that are binding upon the States we represent. But in order to produce system and concerted action, we recommend the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That we have ever cherished, and do now cherish a cordial attachment to the constitutional Union of the States and that to preserve and perpetuate that Union unimpaired, this Convention originated and has now re-assembled.

Resolved, That the Union of the States is a Union of equal and independent sovereignties, and that the powers delegated to the Federal Government, can be resumed by the several States, whenever it may seem to them proper and necessary.

Resolved, That all the evils anticipated by the South, and which occasioned this Convention to assemble have been realized, by the failure to extend the Missouri line of Compromise to the Pacific Ocean; By the admission of California as a State; By the organization of Territorial Governments for Utah and New Mexico, without giving adequate protection to the property of the South; By the dismemberment of Texas; By the abolition of the slave trade and the emancipation of slaves carried into the District of Columbia for sale.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to all parties in the slaveholding States, to refuse to go into, or countenance any National Convention, whose object may be to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, under any party denomination whatever, until our constitutional rights are secured.

Resolved, That in view of these aggressions, and of those threatened and impending, we earnestly recommend to the slaveholding States, to meet in a Congress or Convention, to be held at such time and place as the States desiring to be represented, may designate, to be composed of double the number of their Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States, entrusted with full power and authority to deliberate and act with the view and intention of arresting farther aggression, and if possible, of restoring the Constitutional rights of the South, and if not to provide for their future safety and independence.

Resolved, That the President of this Convention be requested to forward copies of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the Governors of each of the slaveholding States of the Union, to be laid before their respective Legislatures at their earliest assembling.

CHARLES J. McDONALD, President.
REUBEN CHAPMAN, Vice President.
E. G. EASTMAN, Secretary.

Photomount
Pamphlet
Binder
Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL
00032722830

FOR USE ONLY IN

THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

Form No. A-368